



**SAFER SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES
BEST PRACTICES
CLEARINGHOUSE**

Lessons from the Field: Family and Community Engagement and Returning to In-Person Instruction

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET

SPEAKER BIOS

Christian Rhodes, Chief of Staff, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Mr. Christian Rhodes served as Chief of Staff for Prince George's County Public Schools. In this role, Rhodes supported the chief executive officer through management of specific business functions of the school system. He began his career as a political organizer for the Maryland State Teachers Association, a state affiliate of the National Education Association, and education advisor Office of the Prince George's County Executive. Mr. Rhodes has a Master of Public Administration degree from the American University in Washington, D.C., and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Jessica Cardichon, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, U.S. Department of Education

Ms. Jessica Cardichon's most recent position prior to serving at the Department was as the Director of the Washington D.C. Office and Director of Federal Policy at the Learning Policy Institute (LPI). There she played a leadership role in the organization, including developing and advancing LPI's federal policy agenda. She is also the lead author of *Advancing Educational Equity for Underserved Youth*, among numerous other LPI publications. Ms. Cardichon began her career teaching in New York City for seven years and then working for Teachers College, Columbia University, as a program manager for implementation of early career educator induction programs. Upon moving to Washington, D.C., she served as education counsel to Sen. Bernie Sanders, a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee. She then served as Senior Director for Federal Policy and Advocacy at the Alliance for Excellent Education.

Tina Hike-Hubbard, Chief of Communications, Engagement, and Enrollment, Baltimore City Public Schools

Ms. Tina Hike-Hubbard began her education career as a Teach for America (TFA) Corps Member. She also worked with the TFA national team by serving as a Faculty Director and a School Director during their Summer Institutes. Ms. Hike-Hubbard has also worked for Enterprise Community Partners, where she was responsible for developing and managing a comprehensive school/community reform effort in Baltimore. In this role she developed a national platform for the inclusion of school reform within traditional community development activities for Enterprise. In 2010, Ms. Hike-Hubbard was appointed by Governor O'Malley and Mayor Rawlings-Blake to serve as a School Board Commissioner for the Baltimore City Public School System, serving as a commissioner for eight years, including two years as Vice-Chair. Ms. Hike-Hubbard has been named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by the Daily Record and has received the Family League's President's Award, which recognizes outstanding work impacting Baltimore's children and families. Ms. Hike-Hubbard holds a bachelor's degree in Government from Northwest Missouri State University and a master's degree in Urban Education from The Johns Hopkins University.

Brandon Pinkney, Principal, Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School #134

Mr. Brandon Pinkney is Principal at Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School with five years of experience as a principal and thirteen years of experience overall as an educator. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Morgan State University in 2006. In 2010, Mr. Pinkney attended Loyola University of Maryland and received a Master of Art degree in Reading Specialization. In 2012, Mr. Pinkney received a certificate in Education Administration and entered the Ed.D. program at Morgan State University pursuing a degree in Urban Educational Leadership (dissertation candidate). Mr. Pinkney specializes in transformational leadership and is responsible for leading schools in an urban district through data driven and highly effective instructional practices with the intent of greatly impacting student outcomes (academic and social-emotional). Mr. Pinkney is an influential force in the field of Education and uses his positive attitude, servant leadership, and tireless energy to encourage others to work hard and succeed. Mr. Pinkney has received a host of honors and recognitions including "Heart of the Schools Honoree" in 2020 and "Morgan State University Distinguished Alumni" in 2016.